

CLAIMS

1. A method of managing radio links between at least one mobile station (MS-i) and a radio access network (RAN) of a communications network, the method being characterized
5 in that, in the event of an interruption being detected in the radio link between a mobile station (MS-i) and said radio access network (RAN), said radio link is suspended, and an attempt is made to reactivate said radio link in application of a selected timetable.
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2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that an attempt is made to reactivate said radio link after each detection of an interruption.
- 15 3. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that an attempt is made to reactivate said radio link in application of said selected timetable over a selected time interval.
- 20 4. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said timetable is of the periodic type.
5. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that said timetable is drawn up on the basis of statistical
25 results obtained in said communications network and relating to the durations of said detected interruptions.
6. Apparatus for managing radio links between at least one mobile station (MS-i) and a radio network controller
30 (BSCn) of a radio access network (RAN) of a communications network, the apparatus being characterized in that it comprises detector means (DM) arranged to detect a radio link interruption between a mobile station (MS-i) and said radio network controller (BSCn), and
35 control means (CM) arranged, in the event of such an interruption being detected, to order said radio network controller (BSCn) to suspend said radio link, and then to

attempt to reactivate said radio link in application of a selected timetable.

5 7. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that said control means (CM) are arranged to order said radio network controller (BSCn) to attempt to reactivate said radio link after each detection of an interruption signaled by said detector means (DM).

10 8. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that said control means (CM) are arranged to order said radio network controller (BSCn) to attempt to reactivate said radio link in application of said selected timetable during a selected time interval.

15 9. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that said timetable is of the periodic type.

20 10. Apparatus according to claim 6, characterized in that said control means (CM) are arranged to draw up said timetable on the basis of statistical results obtained in said communications network and relating to the durations of said interruptions detected by said detector means (DM).

25 11. A radio network controller (BSCn) of a radio access network (RAN) of a communications network, the controller being characterized in that it includes apparatus (D) according to any one of claims 6 to 10.

30 12. Equipment for a radio access network (RAN) of a communications network including at least one radio network controller (BSCn), the equipment being characterized in that it includes apparatus (D) according to any one of claims 6 to 10.

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13. A communications network including a radio access network (RAN) including at least one radio network controller (BSCn), the communications network being characterized in that it includes at least one apparatus
- 5 (D) according to any one of claims 6 to 10.